

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of September 15, 2010 is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Thus, claims 1 and 13 are currently pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugimoto et al. (JP 2002-008524). For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

Independent claim 1 recites a plasma display panel comprising a front panel including a display electrode, a dielectric layer and a protective layer sequentially formed on a first glass substrate, and a back panel including an address electrode, a base dielectric layer, a barrier rib and a phosphor layer sequentially formed on a second glass substrate, with the front panel and the back panel being disposed so as to confront each other and being sealed at the outer walls so as to form an inner space between the protective layer of the front panel and the phosphor layer, barrier rib and base dielectric layer of the back panel.

The plasma display panel of claim 1 also includes a first catalyst and a second catalyst provided on at least one of the barrier rib and the phosphor layer so as to be exposed to the inner space and react with a hydrocarbon existing in the inner space. Further, claim 1 recites that the first catalyst is at least one of a catalyst which accelerates oxidization of the hydrocarbon and is selected from the group consisting of Pd, Pt, Rh, Co₃O₄, PdO, Cr₂O₃, Mn₂O₃, CoO, and NiO, and that *the second catalyst accelerates decomposition of the hydrocarbon and consists of Co, Ti or Ni*.

Sugimoto discloses a plasma display panel which, as shown in Fig. 2, includes a back panel 12, a front panel 14, ribs 16 and a phosphor layer 24. Further, Sugimoto discloses that the ribs 16 are formed by baking a rib-precursor compact obtained by hardening a light-sensitive glass-ceramic paste. In this regard, Sugimoto discloses that the light-sensitive paste should preferably include an oxidation catalyst in order to reduce the temperature required for burning off the binder component when forming the rib.

However, Sugimoto does not disclose a *second catalyst which accelerates decomposition of the hydrocarbon and consists of Co, Ti or Ni*, as required by independent claim 1. In

particular, Sugimoto only discloses that the oxidation catalyst is composed of an oxide, salt or complex of Ni (see paragraph [0017] of the partial translation of Sugimoto which was submitted in the IDS filed on April 1, 2009), and does not disclose Ni (*i.e.*, elemental nickel) as a second catalyst. Therefore, as Sugimoto only discloses that the oxidation catalyst is composed of an oxide, salt or complex of elements such as Ni, Sugimoto does not disclose a second catalyst which consists of Co, Ti or Ni, as required by independent claim 1.

In this regard, it is noted that in a telephone conversation with the Examiner on January 14, 2011, the Examiner indicated that amending claim 1 to recite that the second catalyst “consists of Co, Ti or Ni” would be sufficient to overcome the § 102(b) rejection based on Sugimoto. Accordingly, as Sugimoto does not disclose a second catalyst which consists of Co, Ti or Ni, as required by independent claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Sugimoto does not anticipate independent claim 1.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, as well as claim 13 which depends therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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